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IWMPRAISE - an EU HORIZON 2020 project on Integrated Weed Management

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IWMPRAISE is a new five-year EU Horizon 2020 project on integrated weed management (IWM) with 37 partners in eight European countries. The main objective of IWMPRAISE is to demonstrate that adoption of IWM will support cropping systems that are agronomically and environmentally more sustainable and more resilient without jeopardizing profitability or the steady supply of food, feed and biomaterials. IWMPRAISE will develop, test and assess management strategies delivered across cropping systems for four contrasting crop groups: narrow-row annual crops, wide row annual crops, perennial herbaceous crops and perennial woody crops. The specific objectives are to i) quantify and address current socio-economic and agronomic barriers to the uptake of IWM ii) design, evaluate and optimize novel alternative weed control methods and create a 'tool box' of validated IWM methods iii) assess the short- and long-term agronomic performance and environmental and economic sustainability of IWM strategies and iv) make results available to end users. One WP is devoted to understanding end users' perception of IWM and barriers to uptake of new knowledge while another WP will focus on the interface between weed management and tillage. Novel IWM strategies will be developed within national clusters where all stakeholders are represented. The development of IWM strategies are supported by research activities delivering practical knowledge and novel tools for weed control as well as tools for assessing and disseminating the novel strategies. IWMPRAISE will provide advances beyond the state-of-the-art within several research areas ensuring that the overall goal of the project, to provide practical solutions to the end users, will be fulfilled. IWMPRAISE combines R & D activities, providing the tools for developing IWM strategies, with activities that adopt the »interaction innovation model« involving end-users and other stakeholders in a partnership with public research institutes and private SMEs.